



Bristol Rural Branch

Part of The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Almondsbury 2020 Peal Board

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Based on an article published in The Lich Gate, the Almondsbury parish magazine.

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We hung the Peal board yesterday 15th December 2020 and although it's taken us almost a year to do it, it's still something that's worth celebrating.

The reason it took us so long to get it done was that initially we had planned to use parts of the old timber headstock from the tenor. The headstock had been returned from Loughborough after the bells had been restored tuned 1/8th turned and fitted with new cast iron headstocks by John Taylor & Co. The bells had been put back into the belfry in 2019 and the peal was rung to celebrate all of that.

Steve Crane took on the task of slicing up the headstock to start the process but unfortunately in so doing it was realised that there were too many holes and that the elm was not good enough to make a satisfactory Peal board. The idea was reluctantly dropped.



That left us with a dilemma. We had booked a slot with an excellent peal board artist in Bath and as she was due to retire at the end of 2020, we had



reserved a slot before she did that. We had to find a carpenter, joiner or

cabinet maker pretty quick who could knock together our design to meet the slot deadline.

Fortunately, Nigel Waters our ABRP (Almondsbury Bells Restoration Project) Funding Manager was having some work done at his house in Almondsbury and he was able to convince his man to take on the task of quickly making us a high-quality board. I think it was a labour of love as Neale Hake of Basemode made a superb board with mahogany moulded edging. Neale told us that he had made a peal board many years ago for his mum who was a bell ringer in East Anglia.



We knew that it would take 3 months to get the painting and signwriting done and that we were the last in the que as the work was to be done by Maggie Willans and it was to be her last commission before retirement.

After many toings and froings with the artwork we finally got a definitive design and Maggie did not disappoint as she produced a wonderful example of her superb work.

